

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KAREN BROWN, as Administratrix of the Estate of the Decedent
BARRINGTON WILLIAMS and KAREN BROWN, individually,

AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs,

-against-

P.O. JOEL GUACH, Shield No. 1984, Individually and in his
Official Capacity, P.O. AGENOL RAMOS, Shield No. 23702, P.O.
ROBERT O'BRIEN, Shield No. 26227, Individually and in his
Official Capacity, and Police Officers "JOHN DOE" 1-3,
Individually and in their Official Capacities, the names "JOHN
DOE" being fictitious as the true names are not presently known,

15-CV-4091 (PKC)

**JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED**

Defendants.

Plaintiffs by and through their attorneys, **THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL S. LAMONSOFF, PLLC**, as and for their Complaint, respectfully allege, upon information and belief:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Plaintiffs bring this action for compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988 for violations of plaintiff Williams' civil rights, as said rights are secured by said statutes and the Constitutions of the State of New York and the United States of America.

JURISDICTION

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution as well as New York State Law.

3. Jurisdiction is founded upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1367.

VENUE

4. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York under U.S.C. § 1331(b), in that this is the District in which the claim arose.

JURY DEMAND

5. Plaintiffs respectfully demand a trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b).

PARTIES

6. Plaintiffs have been, at all relevant times, residents of the City and State of New York.

7. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN, is the mother of decedent BARRINGTON WILLIAMS.

8. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN, has been appointed the legal administrator of the decedent, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS' estate.

9. Defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

10. Defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, maintains the New York City Police Department, a duly authorized public authority and/or police department, authorized to perform all functions of a police department as per the applicable sections of the New York State Criminal Procedure Law, acting under the direction and supervision of the aforementioned municipal corporation, THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

11. At all times hereinafter mentioned the individually named defendant police officers were duly sworn police officers of said department and were acting under the supervision of said department and according to their official duties.

12. At all times hereinafter mentioned the defendants, either personally or through their employees, were acting under color of state law and/or in compliance with the official rules, regulations, laws, statutes, customs, usages and/or practices of the State or CITY OF NEW YORK.

13. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said defendants while acting within the scope of their employment by defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

14. Each and all of the acts of the defendants alleged herein were done by said defendants while acting in furtherance of their employment by defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

FACTS

15. On or about September 17, 2013, at approximately 2:54 p.m., plaintiff BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, was present at the 161st Street – Yankee Stadium Subway Station at River Avenue in Bronx County in the State of New York.

16. At that time and place, the defendant officers approached plaintiff and placed him under arrest.

17. The defendant officers placed plaintiff on the ground and applied force to his chest and neck.

18. The defendants' conduct caused the plaintiff to stop breathing.

19. The defendants' conduct caused the plaintiff to foam from the mouth.

20. Despite plaintiff's clear need of medical attention, the defendants failed to take reasonable and available steps to provide him with help.

21. The defendants' conduct caused plaintiff's death.

22. At no time on September 17, 2013 did plaintiff present any threat of physical force to the defendant officers or any other individual or property.

23. The force employed by the defendants was objectively unreasonable and was not privileged in any way.

24. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff BARRINGTON WILLIAMS sustained, *inter alia*, death, physical injury, mental anguish, shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, humiliation, and deprivation of his constitutional rights.

25. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff KAREN BROWN sustained, *inter alia*, mental anguish, shock, humiliation, the loss of the company and contribution of her son, and she paid funeral and other associated expenses as a direct result of the defendants' actions.

26. All of the aforementioned acts of defendants, their agents, servants and employees, were carried out under the color of state law.

27. All of the aforementioned acts deprived plaintiff, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, of the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to citizens of the United States by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, and were therefore in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983.

28. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers with all the actual and/or apparent authority attendant thereto.

29. The acts complained of were carried out by the aforementioned individual defendants in their capacities as police officers, pursuant to the customs, usages, practices, procedures, and rules of THE CITY OF NEW YORK and the New York City Police Department, all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department.

30. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, engaged in conduct which constituted a custom, usage, practice, procedure or rule of the respective municipality/authority, which is forbidden by the Constitution of the United States.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FOR EXCESSIVE FORCE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

31. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN on behalf of her son, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation set forth above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

32. The force employed by the individually named defendants was unreasonable given the facts and circumstances prevailing at the time and place of the above described incident.

33. As a result of the foregoing, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, suffered death, physical injuries, mental anguish, shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, humiliation, and deprivation of his constitutional rights.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FOR DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE TO MEDICAL
NEEDS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

34. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN on behalf of her son, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation set forth above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

35. Defendants failed to provide plaintiff with timely medical attention despite their knowledge that he was suffering from a serious medical condition.

36. Defendants actions constituted an unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain and terror repugnant to the conscience of mankind.

37. As a result of the foregoing, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, suffered death, physical injuries, mental anguish, shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, humiliation, and deprivation of his constitutional rights.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FOR FAILURE TO INTERCEDE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

38. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN on behalf of her son, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation set forth above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

39. Defendants failed to intercede to prevent or mitigate the injuries suffered by BARRINGTON WILLIAMS as described above.

40. Defendant officers were presented with a realistic opportunity to prevent and/or mitigate the constitutional violations suffered by plaintiff as described above.

41. As a result of the foregoing, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS suffered death, mental anguish, shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, humiliation, and deprivation of his constitutional rights.

PENDANT STATE CLAIMS

42. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate, and reallege each and every allegation set forth above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein and at length.

43. Within ninety days after the claims herein accrued, the plaintiff duly served upon, presented to and filed with defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, a Notice of Claim setting forth all facts and information required under the General Municipal Law §50(e).

44. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK has wholly neglected or refused to make an adjustment or payment thereof and more than thirty (30) days have elapsed since the presentation of such claim as aforesaid.

45. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK conducted a hearing pursuant to General Municipal Law § 50-h.

46. This action was commenced within two years after the causes of action herein accrued and the appointment of KAREN BROWN as administer of BARRINGTON WILLIAMS's estate.

47. Plaintiff has complied with all conditions precedent to maintaining the instant action.

48. This action falls within one or more of the exceptions as outlined in C.P.L.R. §1602.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FOR WRONGFUL DEATH UNDER NEW YORK LAW

49. Plaintiff, KAREN BROWN on behalf of her son BARRINGTON WILLIAMS, and in her own capacity repeats, reiterates, and realleges each and every allegation set forth above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein and at length.

50. At the aforesaid place and time, the individually named defendants did, by their own wrongful acts and negligence cause the untimely death of plaintiff, BARRINGTON WILLIAMS.

51. The aforesaid wrongful death was caused by the individually named defendants while acting within the scope of their employment by defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

52. As a result of the aforesaid wrongful death, plaintiff, KAREN BROWN, was injured, physically and mentally and she suffered pecuniary damages in connection with her son's untimely death.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiffs respectfully request judgment against defendants as follows:

- i. an order awarding compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- ii. an order awarding punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- iii. reasonable attorneys' fees and costs under 42 U.S.C. §1988; and
- iv. directing such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper, together with attorneys' fees, interest, costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York
August 31, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

**LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL S.
LAMONSOFF, PLLC**
Counsel for the Plaintiff



By:

MATTHEW SHROYER (MS-6041)
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Docket No. 15-cv-4091(PKC)
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Defendants.

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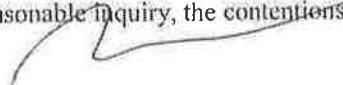
To:

P. O. Joel Guach, Shield No. 1984
c/o New York City Police Dept-Bronx Transit Police District#11
1 East 161st Street, Suite 11
Bronx, New York 10451

P. O. Agenol Ramos, Shield No. 23702
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Pursuant to 22NYCRR 130-1.1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed document are not frivolous.


Matthew Shroyer